

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-14. (Cancelled) ✓

15. (Currently Amended) A plating bath precursor as in Claim 14 17, wherein the second metal ions are one or more metal ions selected from nickel, cobalt, gold, silver, copper, palladium, platinum, indium, tin, lead, antimony, cadmium, zinc, and iron ions, ~~and the first metal ions are one or more ions selected from titanium, cobalt, tin, vanadium, iron, and chromium ions, which second ions form a redox system in combination with said first metal ions and reduce and deposit the second metal ions.~~

16. (Currently Amended) A plating bath precursor as in Claim 15, wherein the concentration of ions of said first metal ~~in a higher oxidation state composing the redox system~~ is at least 0.001 mole/liter.

C1 17. (New) A plating bath precursor comprising first and second metal ions forming a redox system, said plating bath precursor comprising one or more first metal ions selected from a tetravalent titanium ion (Ti^{4+}), a trivalent cobalt ion (Co^{3+}) and a tetravalent tin ion (Sn^{4+}), being stabilized against reduction and deposition of the second metal ions, and prior to using the first metal ions are reduced from said higher oxidation state to said lower oxidation state to thereby activate the plating bath.
